

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 /048 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, RP

SUBJECT: PROPOSED LEGISLATION GOVERNING ATTENDANCE FROM
FOREIGN COUNTRIES AT US SERVICE ACADEMIES

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY OMB TO CLEAR A DOD DRAFT
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES IN
THE LAWS GOVERNING ATTENDANCE BY FOREIGNERS AT THE THREE
SERVICE ACADEMIES. SINCE THESE CHANGES AFFECT THE PRESENT
STATUS OF FILIPINOS ATTENDING THE SERVICE ACADEMIES, WE
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY COMMENTS ON THE CANGES
DESCRIBED BELOW.
2. THE NEW LEGISLATION WOULD NO LONGER SPECIFY WHICH
FOREIGN COUNTRIES MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.
SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF TE SECDEF, ANY COUNTRY WOULD
BE ELIGIBLE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING
WOULD BE RAISED FROM 24 TO A MAXIMUM OF 40. THE PRESENT
PROVISION OF LAW AUTHORIZING PAYMENT BY THE US OF PAY
AND ALLOWANCES FOR FOREIGN CADETS AND MIDSHIPMEN WOULD PE
REPEALED. (FYI: WE UNDERSTAND THE PHILIPPINE CADETS ARE
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PRESENTLY PAID BY THE USG.) THE PROVISION OF LAW AUTHORIZ-

I G ATTENDANCE AT THE ACADEMIES ON A NON-REIMBURSABLE BASIS
IS ALSO TO BE REPEALED UNDER THIS PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THERE

WOULD BE A PROVISION FOR WAIVOR BY THE SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE, IN WHICH CASE THE USG WOULD ABSORB THE COST OF
INSTRUCTION. WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT IT IS DOD'S
INTENTION TO EXERCISE THIS WAIVER PROVISION ONLY ON AN
INDIVIDUAL BASIS. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS DOD'S
INTENT RPT INTENT TO KEEP THE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM OF
ATTENDANCE AT LEAST AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL.

3. THOUGH THIS PROPOSAL HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF PUTTING THE
PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION ON THE SAME BASIS AS OTHER
COUNTRIES RATHER THAN ON A "SPECIAL" BASIS, WE ARE
RELUCTANT TO AGREE AT THIS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL PERIOD
IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOP WITHOUT SOLICITING YOUR
ASSESSMENT OF ITS IMPLICATIONS. SINCE DOD HAS
ATTACHED SOME URGENCY TO THE PROPOSAL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR COMMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SCHOOLS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE094470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMU:COL.3AILEY:GMD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750144-0392
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750420/aaaaasih.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED LEGISLATION GOVERNING ATTENDANCE FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AT US SERVICE ACADEMIES
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, RP
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006